



# SITUATION REPORT #P9

28 July 2020

CONFIRMED CASES<sup>1</sup>



10,766

153<sup>BD</sup>

RS ENTITY

4488

FBIH ENTITY

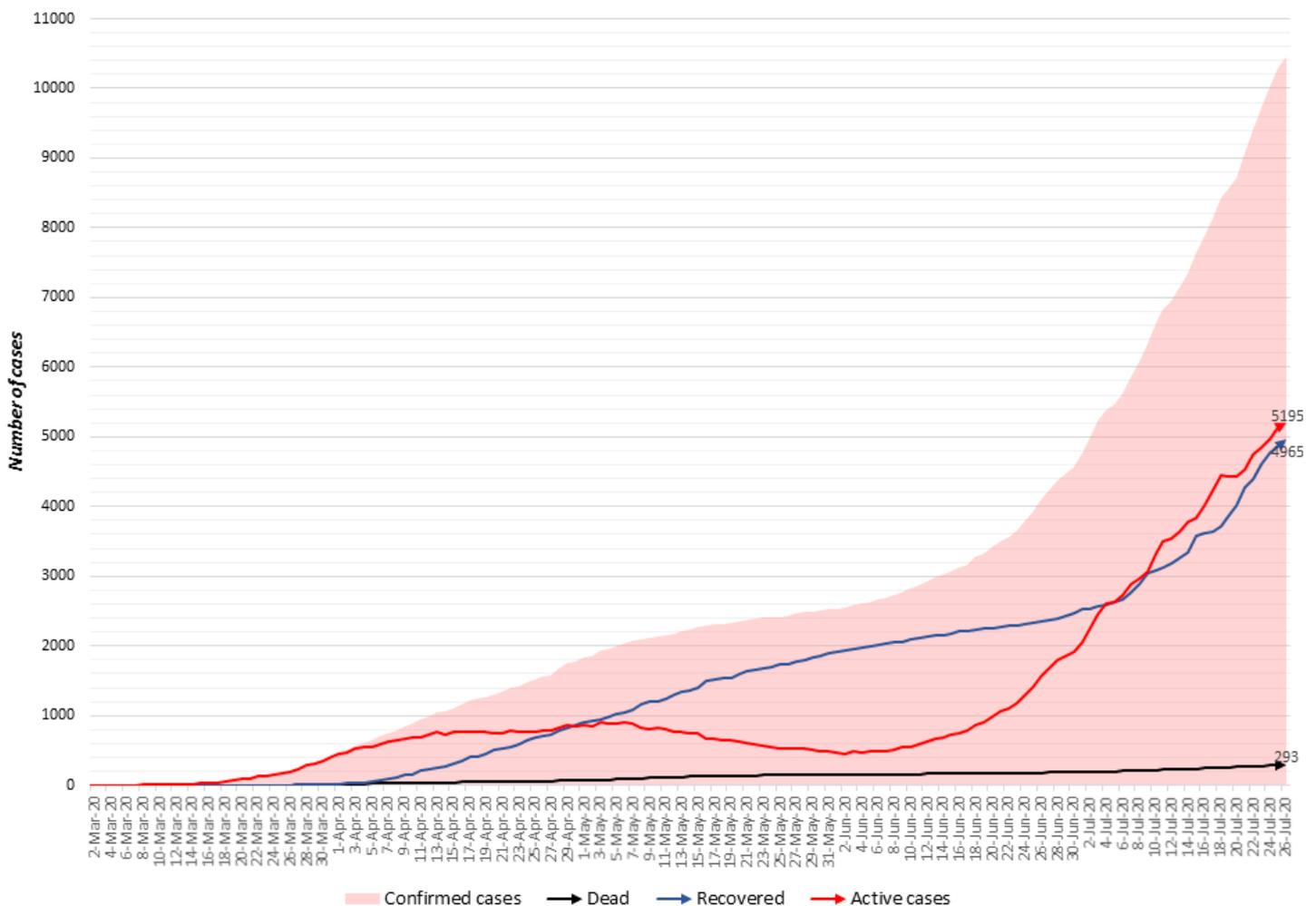
6125

DEATHS REPORTED AS  
ASSOCIATED  
WITH COVID-19

297

## SITUATION SNAPSHOT AND RESPONSE

Overview of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 27<sup>th</sup>



(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMoH, MoCA)

<sup>1</sup> As reported on 28 July 2020 by 13:00hrs

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

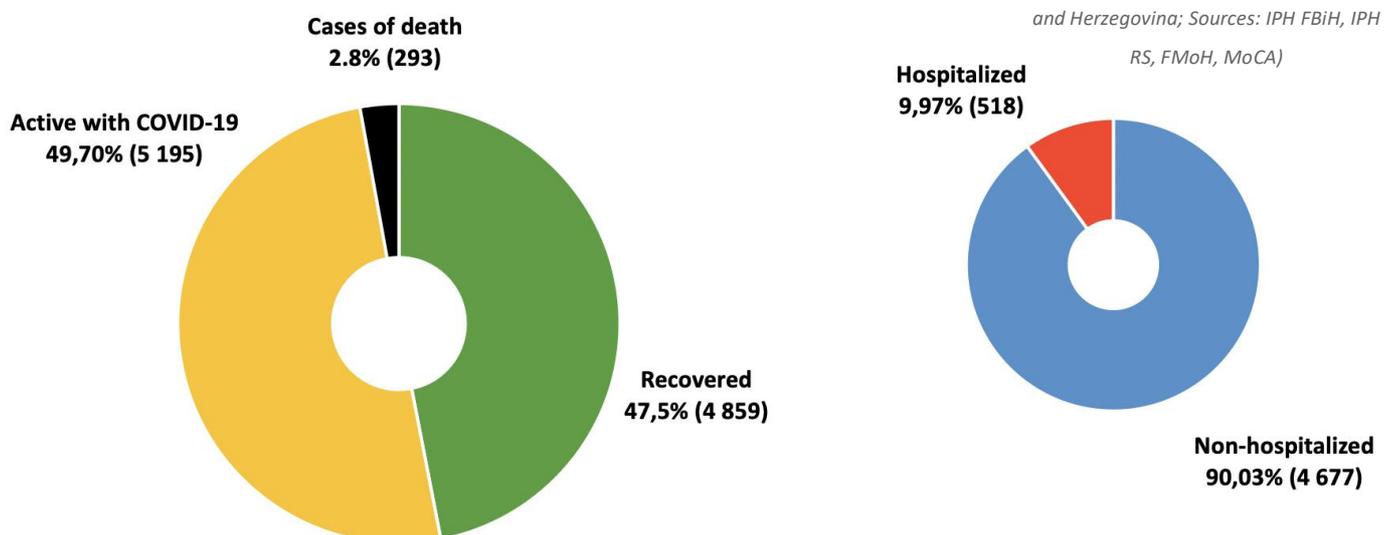
The BiH Council of Ministers decision on State of Natural or Other Disaster (BiH's equivalent of „State of Emergency“) remains in place. At the entity levels, however, the previously declared State of Emergency in the RS was terminated on 20 May, and the State of Natural Disaster in FBiH was, likewise, lifted on 29 May. Curfews have been lifted across the entire territory of BiH, however mandatory requirement that everyone wear face masks in enclosed spaces/areas is still in place. BiH citizens entering into the country no longer need to observe self-isolation, while BiH now allows entry of EU and Schengen area citizens, with a negative COVID-19 test not older than 48 hours. Due to the recent rise in numbers of new cases across the region, stricter measures upon entry apply for anyone coming from BiH into Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia, while flights to Austria from BiH (and other Western Balkan countries) are discontinued as of 15 July until 31 July, due to the deterioration of epidemiological trendline in the region.

Localized clusters continued to appear throughout BiH, raising the overall numbers of new cases to daily record highs in the past week, however with a note – in some instances – higher daily numbers occur due to backlog in testing. With the increase of backlog in the FBiH Entity and limits to receiving 50 testing requests per canton per day, the FBiH Minister of Health issued an announcement this week, asking all interested registered private labs to apply for official verification which would enable them to process COVID-19 tests in support of the public health sector. This is vital to ensure quick test results for other patients, such as oncological, who cannot receive urgent medical care or be hospitalized without a negative test. Unfortunately, weekly high numbers come with a continued reporting on cases of death associated with Covid19. BiH Academy of Arts and Science produced an overview of the worsened epidemiological situation in BiH (rising trendline as of 19 May), urging for strengthening of surveillance and diagnostic capacities before the fall, when wider spread of the epidemics is expected. The Academy's Committee for Microbiology also urged for “an adoption of a joint longer-term strategy for suppressing COVID-19 which would equally consider protection of the population's health and the economy”.

Following „State of Epidemics“ declaration in the FBiH Entity on 17 July, Brcko District made the same decision on 24 July. The working hours of catering services, including bars and coffee places are now until 23:00hrs in the FBiH and Brcko District, while masks are still mandatory outside in entire BiH if the physical distance is not possible (and in enclosed spaces).

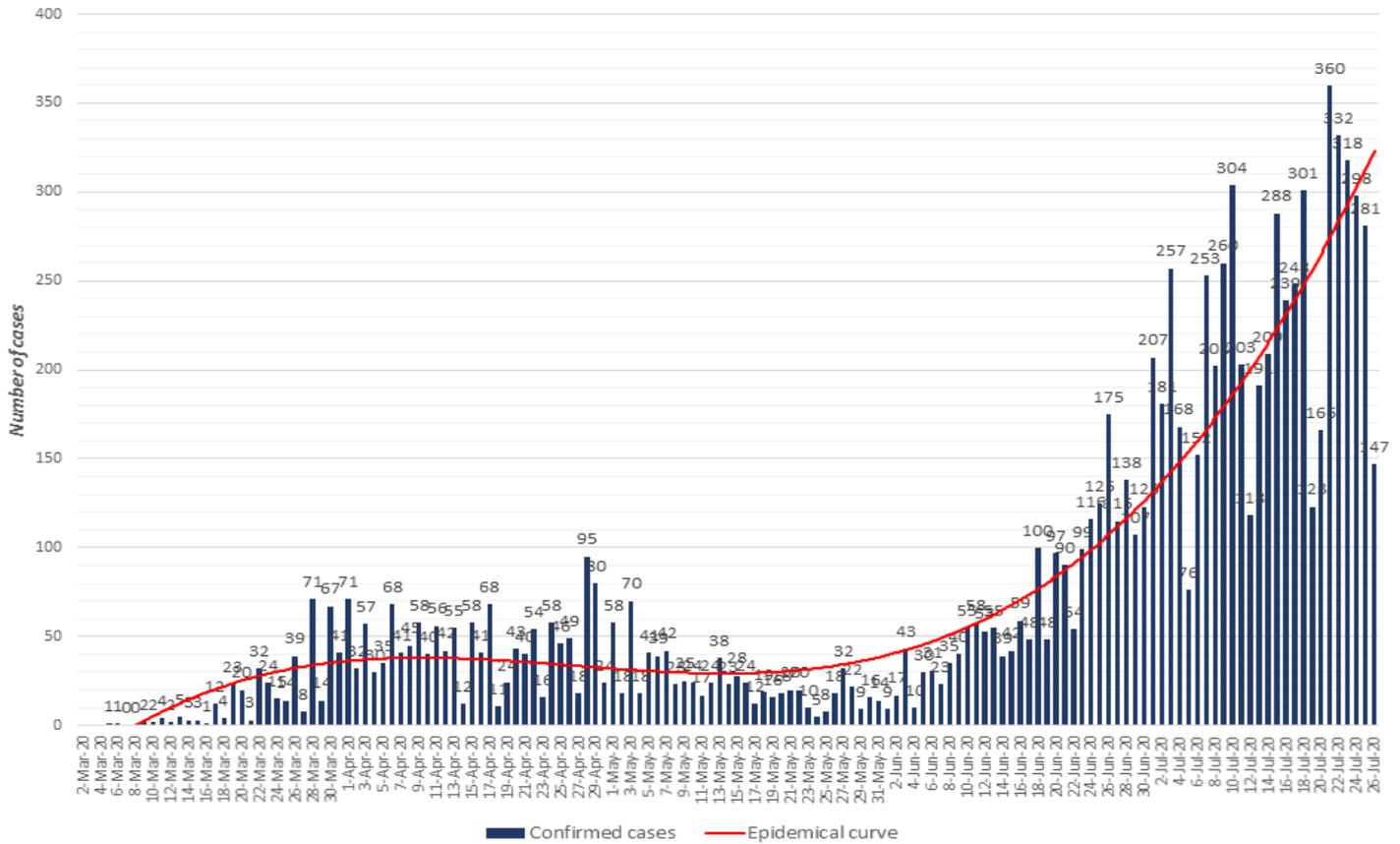
**Distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

*(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMOH, MoCA)*

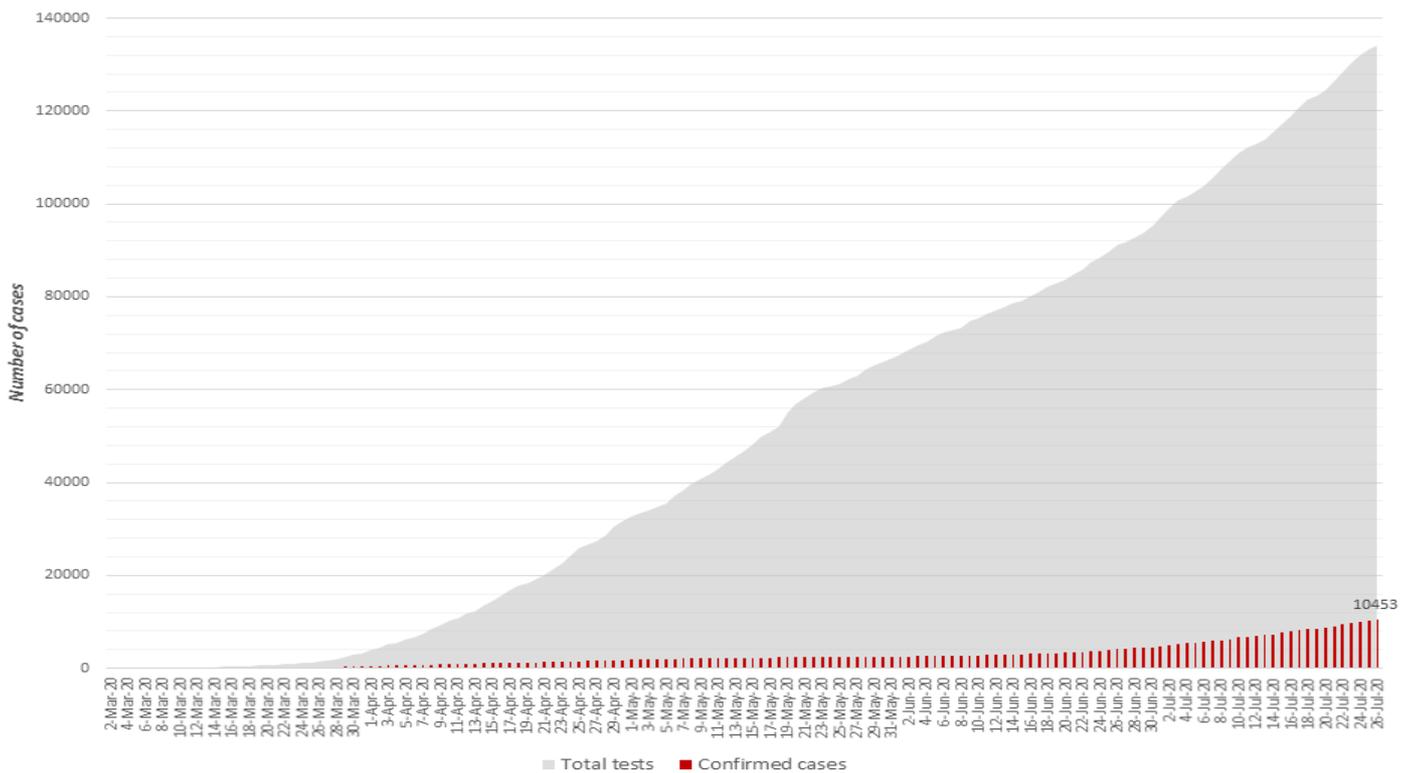




Distribution of COVID-19 positive cases and trendline in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 27<sup>th</sup>

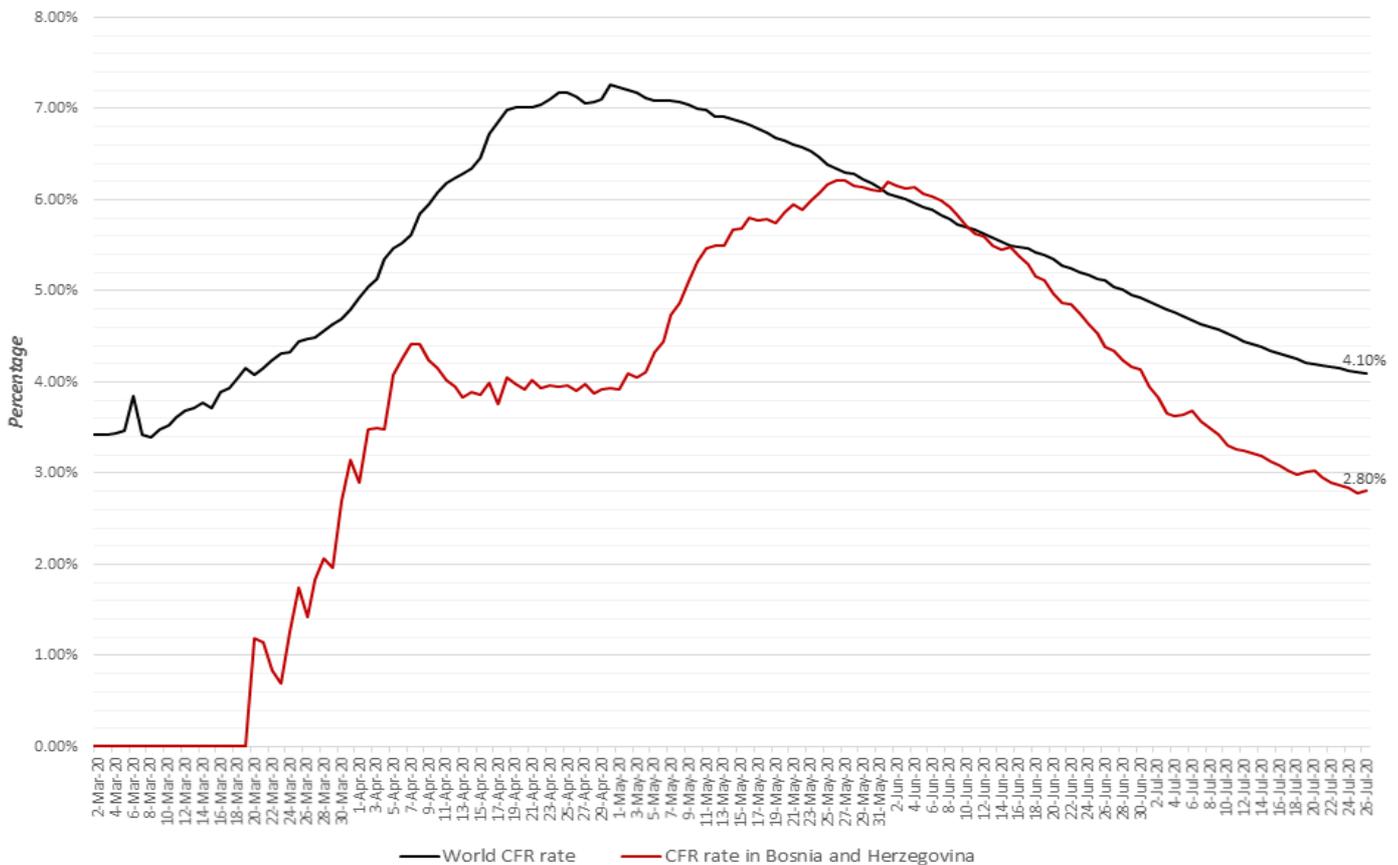


Total number of tests performed vs confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 27<sup>th</sup>





Case Fatality Rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina vs Global Case Fatality Rate, July 27<sup>th</sup>



(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMOH, MoCA, ECDC)

## UN SUPPORT IN RESPONSE – LATEST

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Ingrid Macdonald, and the World Health Organization Representative for BiH, Dr. Victor Olsavszky issued a joint statement on 26 July, noting concern with the reports that medical institutions across the country are close to maximum capacity given the recent sharp increase in COVID19 infections, and reminding that Contact Tracing and Surveillance remain essential tools to suppress the epidemic and open the economy.

[Read the full UN & WHO in BiH Statement](#)

### The key messages outline the need to:

- ❖ Expand testing, contact tracing and surveillance capacities, increase the capacity of healthcare facilities; increase support to and the numbers of specialist healthcare workers, and ensure adequate supplies.
- ❖ Minimize healthcare disruptions and ensure continued provision of essential health services for non-COVID19 related illnesses, so that all who need health care can receive it. Of priority is continuing or immediately resuming immunization programs which are vital to avoid outbreaks of other communicable diseases, especially measles.
- ❖ With the upcoming start of the school year, increase support for flexible and innovative learning arrangements that safeguard the health and welfare of students, teachers, parents and the community. It is important to balance health risks with the impacts of lost education, isolation for children and stress on parents.
- ❖ Invest in recovery that is sustainable, green, fair and inclusive, with a focus on supporting those most impacted by, and vulnerable to COVID19.

The UN team in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues with the weekly presentation of key findings with regards to the sectoral and cross-cutting assessments conducted. This upcoming Thursday, UNDP will present findings from *the Real time community voicing through Rapid Response Assessment (RARE)*; while IOM will present the findings from the *Rapid assessment of COVID-19 impact on BiH diaspora remittances, investments and movements*.

Within its integrated response, UNDP supported the City of Bihac pilot tourism subsidy (voucher) scheme worth BAM 150,000. The initiative called “Odmori u BiHaću” aims to support 20 small tourism businesses and is implemented through Municipal Environmental and Economic Governance (MEG) project financed by the Government of Switzerland. To tackle the long-term effects of COVID-19, UNDP launched BOOST - a regional acceleration program for social impact innovation. BOOST will support emerging solutions and feature a series of challenges which address development issues related to digitization, economy and wellbeing. Challenges are open for innovative solutions from private sector entities, research institutes, academia, and civil society organizations in the Europe and Central Asia region. BOOST is available at [www.boostimpact.org](http://www.boostimpact.org).



**Aiming to boost local economies and preserve jobs at the time of the pandemic UNDP supported the City of Bihac’s tourism voucher scheme worth BAM 150,000**

Source: UNDP

The BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, UNICEF and UNESCO jointly organized a “Back to School” online workshop for the representatives of education authorities in BiH. The global Framework for Reopening of Schools was presented and discussed, along with a proposed template for the development of Reopening Action Plans. The workshop provided a platform to discuss different school reopening scenarios, based on the experiences of other countries which have already opened their education institutions. All education authorities in BiH are in their initial phases of planning. Follow-up workshops were requested to further explore global resources and discuss planning processes in different administrative units in BiH.



**Distribution of vital medical supplies and equipment continues. Over 23 tons of equipment delivered by WHO to FBiH and RS Ministries of Health. UNDP-led purchase and delivery on track with planned 4.2 million items financed by the European Union, Governments of Norway, Switzerland and the institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

Source: WHO and UNDP

UNICEF BiH is initiating new partnership with the BiH Association of Integrative Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, to further spread training sessions on virtual crisis interventions for professionals from Centers for social welfare, Centers for mental health, and schools in BiH. UNICEF and the RS Association of Psychologist amended the partnership framework to further address the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of children and families affected by the crisis, people at increased risk, as well as professionals within the health and social welfare systems. In partnership with the



**UNICEF initiated new partnerships with 4 selected Municipalities to expand social protection and inclusion services for the most vulnerable families with children to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.**

Source: UNICEF

Federal Association of Psychologists and the 22 support groups which were established, UNICEF reached 157 children and 175 adults. These include 36 parents of children with disabilities and 136 professionals.

The lessons learned and best practices of UNICEF’s first-ever E-UPSHIFT workshop for adolescents implemented during the week of 5-12 July were shared with colleagues from Serbia and Montenegro within the Joint UN “Dialogue for the Future” Programme.



UNITED NATIONS  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



COVID-19  
RESPONSE

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator enabled an interactive chart which follows the COVID-19 trendline in BiH, including the effective reproduction factor (R). Standing page for the chart can be accessed [here](#).

Check the running list of United Nations resources at the UN in BiH [website](#).